

M.C.C.A.

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Cumberland County

Amy Fowler, Vice President
Waldo County

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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

MCCA Offices, November 13, 2019

I. Call to Order, Introductions, Attendance and Pledge of Allegiance

MCCA President Thomas Coward called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. following the MCCA Risk Pool meeting. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Noel Madore; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Tom Coward. *Hancock* – Comm. William Clark; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Manager Tom Winsor proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Piscataquis* – Comm. Wayne Erkinen; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Brian Hobart; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Manager Larry Post; *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden; *Hancock* – Admin. Scott Adkins; *Lincoln* – Admin. Carrie Kipfer; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pamela Hile; *MACCAM* - Admin. Greg Zinser; *MACT* – Kathy Robinson; *MSA* – Sheriff Ken Mason, and Sheriff Todd Brackett.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf.

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Charles Pray, Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer and Office Manager Lauren Haven.

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

President Tom Coward inquired if there were any additions to the agenda. He said he expected to discuss the topic of MCCA membership under item VI. Other Business. Comm. Gardner made a motion to advance the topic of membership to earlier in the agenda. President Coward requested the

discussion take place after item IV. on LD 973. Comm. Gardner amended his motion to discuss the item after section IV. Comm. Pohlman seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

III. Approval of October 9th Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Blodgett moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on October 9th, 2019. Comm. Gardner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. LD 973, An Act to Stabilize County Corrections

York County Manager Greg Zinser spoke on behalf of MACCAM explaining the intent to have the state assume a larger responsibility for county jail inmates, and the issues concerning the bill including the two-tier formula which may be confusing to lawmakers and county representatives alike. Comm. Gardner said supporting this bill would allow cost-shifting as the state did with probation. It would allow the state to re-define inmates for whom the state would be responsible. Some ideas were the tracking system for reporting might be revised to include the class and nature of the crime during arrest to follow the person as regardless of where he/she is housed. Some attendees believed counties would still need to go back to the legislature for funding just as the Department of Education does, etc. All agreed more discussion was needed and there should be a Legislative Policy Committee meeting scheduled.

V. Reports

A. Executive Director Report and Legislative Discussion

Executive Director Charles Pray presented his report highlighting the legislative activities in addition to LD 973. Some items included a reminder about FY20-21 jail appropriations, fiscal notes, 2nd session legislation, MSP call sharing, rural patrol and trooper vacancies, and more.

B. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the October financial reports. Debits were associated with normal operating expenses and convention related purchases. Credits were largely from vendors and attendees participating in the convention. The profit and loss numbers from the convention were included in the packet as a separate report. Once all payments and receipts have been settled, the net income from the conference was about \$15,000, well above the target of \$8,400. This and additional endorsement \$5,000 beyond the budgeted \$7,500 will help fill in the budget shortfall. As there were no questions about the reports, Comm. Fournier moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Comm. Erkinen and it passed unanimously.

C. Association Reports

MACCAM: Manager Greg Zinser said the group was working on LD 973 with the Maine Sheriff's Association concerning the formula and the tax cap issue.

D. Annual Convention Report

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported there was a net profit from the convention of approximately \$15,000. A compilation of the evaluation forms was included in the agenda packets. Generally, the feedback had been good. Attendees enjoyed the activities, food and educational sessions. The Convention Planning Committee was looking forward to starting work on the 2020

convention taking place at Sunday River. They scheduled their next meeting for Friday, November 15th at the MCCA offices.

E. NACo Report

There was no update.

VI. Other Business (addressed earlier in the agenda)

President Tom Coward invited discussion about MCCA membership.

Comm. Gardner suggested MCCA issues were mainly budgetary, growth versus counties' ability to pay increased membership dues regardless of whatever value it might have. Additionally, the MCCA membership crisis endangers the survival of the Risk Pool should more counties withdraw from the Risk Pool in order to withdraw from MCCA. The conversation continued with some members considering the organization redundant believing MSA and MACCAM could stay on top of legislation and jail funding without MCCA. Others felt the commissioners are stronger as a group, striving to present a unified front to the Legislature. Also, the association is longstanding and recognized even if there are areas for improvement. Several members expressed a willingness to be part of the solution. Comm. Gardner offered a compromise proposing Washington County might remain a member for another year if the 2020 membership dues are reduced from the previously approved formula. This would give the Board of Directors time to make decisions about the future. Separation from the Risk Pool should be part of the conversation, as well as considering reverting to the prior organizational structure which might sufficiently support the association financially. Comm. Fournier said the Budget and Finance Committee would be meeting to develop a recommendation, although the group already had identified potential ways in which services might be improved should the membership dues be increased.

VII. Adjournment

President Tom Coward invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:40 9.m. Comm. Fournier made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Cote, and the **motion** was unanimously **approved**. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer